



Review and Revision of National Training Manuals for: Family Planning, Focused Antenatal Care and Post Natal Care

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Introduction

The approach adopted in the design and implementation of the MNCH component of PRRINN-MNCH programme to address the prevailing high maternal and newborn mortalities in Northern Nigeria aims at scaling up the coverage of high impact interventions across the continuum of care in a sustainable way.

Although a health facility intra-partum care strategy can be justified as the best bet in the continuum of care to bring down high rates of maternal and neonatal mortality; there are further opportunities to alter the risks of maternal and newborn deaths outside the intra-partum period that are complementary. These include antenatal care, postpartum care, and family planning.

The purpose of the assignment was to review and revise currently used FANC, PNC and FP training manuals and guidelines in Nigeria in line with current evidence -based best practices.

Methods

The consultancy was implemented in two phases namely: *phase 1* - a comprehensive review of three national Reproductive Health documents – the Focused Ante Natal Care (FANC), Family Planning (FP) training manual and post natal training manual. Unfortunately FMOH does not have a PNC manual. *Phase 2* – stakeholders' validation workshop.

Phase 1 – comprehensive review of training documents

1. **FANC Training manual** - an orientation package for health care providers in Nigeria.

Mode of review:

Ample evidenced based documents recently published were sourced from locally and internationally (including WHO). Resource materials from other developing countries with proven track record of progress in the various areas of FANC

were consulted and reviewed and used as appropriate.

Review Findings:

Generally, it was observed that the manual has too large and with many slides (222) although this particular style of presentation makes learning and interactions simpler and friendlier. The issue is how much time would be allocated for training?

Recommendations for modifying the FANC manual

Suggestions for modifying the presentations to reduce the bulk without interfering with user-friendliness and covering the subject matter include:

- Comparing traditional and Focused ANC slides in tabular form;
- Deleting some slides that are really not too relevant nor adding value to strict training focus!
- Many of the slides and cases are still relevant but where nothing new is added to knowledge or practice they can be dropped for the purpose of training and these will be identified with the aid of the comments in each slide/case.
- Modifications must be by consensus of key stakeholders with a strong FMOH participation for government ownership as well

2. PNC manual

Unfortunately there was no national training document on this area of service delivery and in view of that a rather detailed outline for further development of the manual by PRRINN and FMOH was developed. The outline contains definitions, brief background info on PNC status in Nigeria; maternal and newborn deaths; classification of puerperium and changes in puerperium; disorders in puerperium; aims & objectives of PNC; components and challenges and scaling up.



Recommendation

PRRINN-MNCH is to assist FMOH to develop this manual working on the detailed outline offered here.

3. Family Planning Training Manual

This is a very bulky manual with 466 pages. Strictly speaking it can pass for a Reproductive Health Book as all components of reproductive health were exhaustively dwelt on. Much as the contents are good enough for knowledge sharing especially in a resource- constrained environment like ours albeit, most of the information may not be directly appropriate for a time-bound FP training. So the focus should be on reducing without losing value and this formed the basis for the review.

Recommendation on use for FP training manual

The revised version for training can still at best be used as the main resource for directions, uniformity in training, content and national outlook. Other emphasis based on agency's focus and State needs can also be added.

Phase 2 - Stakeholders' Validation Meeting

A two days stakeholders' meeting was held in Katsina from 8-9 June 2011.

Participants: Twenty five participants were in attendance comprising of various cadres of medical personnel (Consultant OBGY, RH Coordinators, Nurse midwives- and Midwife Educators, RH tutors, Senior CHEWs and State Principal Medical officers) in the field of Reproductive Health from Kaduna, Zamfara, Yobe, Kano States and the Federal Ministry of Health representative. Also in attendance were other development partners and key staff of PRRIN-MCH including Midwifery Advisor and the three consultants (national and an international) working on different aspects of the project document development.

The aim and objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss and agree on the revised contents of training manuals for FANC, PNC and FP and how should be re-organised and integrated
- Develop plans for training in FANC, PNC and FP at state level for HCP in PRRINN-MNCH-supported target HFs

Meeting proceedings

The aims and objectives of the meeting were presented and the reasons/need for the review highlighted.

Mrs. Oteka of the Federal Ministry of Health presented each of the two original training packages before their reviews; she gave a brief history of each including why and when they were developed highlighting the role of development partners in facilitating the processes.

The process adopted for the review was recounted by the reviewer and the outcomes were shared with the participants in detail for consensus.

Meeting was quite participatory; group work was also used to garner stakeholders input and involvement.

Outputs from the review and stakeholders' validation meeting

1. Revised draft National document on Focused ANC
2. Revised draft National FP training manual
3. Draft PNC training manual

Recommendations

- Any provider for this short integrated update course must have had the full initial FP training for a meaningful/desired outcome
- Designated clinical facility with ample resources for training especially appropriate manikins for class demonstrations and patients for the various methods, commodities must be identified for effective training outcomes.
- Minimum of 6 days was recommended for an integrated FANC, PNC and FP update for health providers.

Next steps:

- Submit final copy of the integrated FANC, PNC & FP training manual to FMOH (Family health Dept) for input
- FMOH organises key stakeholders' meeting at federal level to validate the manual
- Finalisation and endorsement of training package by FMOH
- Printing and dissemination of training package

Please email info@prinn-mnch.org for the full report